



Women in Informal Employment
Globalizing and Organizing

**SESSION 5: DEMAND FOR GENDER-DISAGGREGATED
DATA ON INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT/INNOVATIVE
APPROACHES**

**JOINT ILO-DATA 2X ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
1-2 OCTOBER 2014**

**Highlights of Progress in this New Field since 1993 ICLS
Resolution on Statistics on the Informal Sector**

- Adoption of definition of “informal employment” by 2003 ICLS
- Increase in countries with statistics on informal employment – 46 in ILO-WIEGO database and more....
- 2 issues of ILO/WIEGO *Women and Men in the Informal Economy*, 2002 and 2013 and 2 sets of regional estimates of informal employment in developing countries, *Statistics on the Informal Economy: Definitions, Regional Estimates and Challenges WIEGO Working Paper No. 2*
- Recognition of informal sector by national accountants and Mexico’s new use of informal employment and its contribution to GDP as key economic indicators

WIEGO's Role in the Development of Statistics on Informal Employment

- WIEGO is a global research-policy action network that seeks to improve the status of the working poor, especially women
- From its beginning in 1997 WIEGO placed statistics at the forefront of its work agenda; it was involved in all of the developments outlined in the previous slide
- WIEGO provides an informed voice needed to drive change in official statistics; and WIEGO is an important user of statistics, making them more accessible to a wide set of advocates, development officials, researchers, the media – and to organizations of informal workers

Example of Demand + Innovative Approach → Identification of Categories of Informal Workers: domestic workers, home-based workers, street vendors and waste pickers

- Focus of official statistics = categories of formal workers; new demand for statistics on types of informal workers as these groups organize
- Pilot work done by WIEGO
 - ▣ Statistical briefs on all 4 categories based on the available data
 - ▣ Methodological critique of estimates of domestic workers – India
 - ▣ New guidelines and recommendations for estimating specific groups
- Training in this will be a component of training workshop in India in February 2015 jointly sponsored by ADB, ILO, SIAP, WIEGO and the CSO/ NSST of India

Lessons Learned from This Approach

- It is important to bridge what informal workers need or want and what statisticians do and the methods they use and, in so doing, to reframe ideas on what can and should be done
- Full labour force survey is best data source for obtaining information on informal employment and informal workers
- Starting point should be to use the data that exist before starting something new
- Coordinated action of many agencies is key to successful outcomes

Additional Examples of Important New Initiatives with Demand + Coordinated Action

- Minimum Set of Gender Indicators Recommended by Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics
- International Household Survey Network (IHSN): coordinated effort of international agencies to improve availability and quality of survey data within developing countries and to encourage the analysis of these data
- Plans of ILO Statistics to include informal employment in its main LABORSTAT database

Additional Issues requiring Innovative Approaches, Better Coordination and Partnership

- Revision of the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE) to reflect the risk and autonomy in the full range of employment arrangements today
- The application of the concept of informal employment to developed countries
- The application of the concept of informal employment to agriculture

WIEGO is working with relevant statistical organizations on all of these issues.